

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1.(original) An apparatus for rapidly changing the temperature of a mass of product, comprising:
 at least two input heat transfer elements for extending into the mass of product, the input heat transfer elements being in parallel spaced planes;
 at least one output heat transfer element in thermal contact with the input heat transfer elements and exposed to an ambient temperature environment to transfer thermal energy between the product mass and the ambient temperature environment, said at least two input heat transfer elements having a coating to facilitate cleaning.

Claim 2.(original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said at least one output heat transfer element defines a plurality of air contact fins.

Claim 3.(canceled) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a lid for use on a pan containing the mass of product, the lid having at least two slots therein, said at least two input heat transfer elements passing through said slots.

Claim 4.(currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the mass of product is in a pan, the pan having a bottom, said at least two input heat transfer elements having pan contacting surfaces, said at least two input heat transfer elements adapted for contacting the bottom of the pan.

Claim 5.(canceled) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements are detachable from said at least one output heat transfer element.

Claim 6.(original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements and at least one output heat transfer element are formed of a material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron and copper.

Claim 7.(original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements and at least one output heat transfer element are formed as a unitary body.

Claim 8.(canceled) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements are hollow, the apparatus further including a material within the input heat transfer elements to transfer heat between the input heat transfer elements and the output heat

transfer element.

Claim 9.(currently amended) An apparatus for rapidly changing the temperature of a mass of product, comprising:

at least two input heat transfer elements for extending into the mass of product, the input heat transfer elements being in parallel spaced planes;

at least one output heat transfer element in thermal contact with the input heat transfer elements and exposed to an ambient temperature environment to transfer thermal energy between the product mass and the ambient temperature environment; and

a temperature monitor for monitoring a temperature of one of said heat transfer elements, the temperature being an accurate measure of the temperature of the mass of product.

Claim 10.(canceled) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said at least two input heat transfer elements are hollow, the apparatus including an inlet port permitting heat transfer material to flow into the hollow interior of the input heat transfer elements and an outlet port to remove material from the hollow interior of the input heat transfer elements to transfer heat from the input heat transfer elements exterior of the apparatus.

Claim 11.(currently amended) An apparatus for rapidly changing the temperature of pre-cooked food ~~a mass of product~~, comprising:

at least two input heat transfer elements for extending into the pre-cooked food ~~mass of product~~, the input heat transfer elements being in parallel spaced planes;

at least one output heat transfer element in thermal contact with the input heat transfer elements and exposed to an ambient temperature environment to transfer thermal energy between the product mass and the ambient temperature environment; and

a removable handle to move said apparatus.

Claim 12 (canceled). A method for rapidly changing the temperature of a mass of product, comprising the steps of:

placing at least one input heat transfer element within the mass of product; and

exposing at least one output heat transfer element in thermal contact with the at least one input heat transfer element to an ambient temperature environment to transfer thermal energy between the product mass and ambient temperature environment.

Claim 13.(canceled) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of inserting a plurality of said input heat transfer elements within the mass of product.

Claim 14.(canceled) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of removing said at least one input heat transfer element from said at least one output heat transfer element to facilitate cleaning.

Claim 15.(canceled) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of inserting said at least one input heat transfer element through a slot formed in a lid for a pan containing the

mass of product to insert said at least one heat transfer element into the mass of product.

Claim 16.(canceled) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of passing a heat transfer medium through a hollow interior of said one input heat transfer element to transfer heat to the heat transfer medium.

Claim 17.(canceled) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of grasping the at least one input heat transfer heat element with a removable handle.

Claim 18.(canceled) The method of Claim 12 wherein the step of placing at least one input heat transfer element within the mass of product includes the step of placing the at least one input heat transfer element within a mass of product.

Claim 19.(canceled) The method of Claim 12 further comprising a step of providing a visual indication when the at least one input heat transfer element has achieved a predetermined temperature.

Claim 20.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least two input heat transfer elements are rectangular fins.

Claim 21.(canceled) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least one input heat transfer element is coated with a heat conductive material.

Claim 22.(canceled) An apparatus for rapidly changing the temperature of a mass of product, comprising:

- a plurality of product contacting input heat transfer elements for insertion within the mass of product, the input heat transfer elements being fins having first and second major fin surface areas, the fin surface areas of said input heat transfer elements being generally parallel;

- a plurality of output heat transfer elements in thermal contact with the plurality of input heat transfer elements and an ambient temperature environment to transfer thermal energy between the product mass and ambient temperature environment, the output heat transfer elements being fins having first and second major fin surface areas, the fin surface areas of said output heat transfer elements being generally parallel each other and generally parallel to the fin surface areas of the input heat transfer elements.

Claim 23.(canceled) An apparatus for rapidly changing the temperature of a mass of product, comprising:

- a plurality of product contacting input heat transfer elements for insertion within the mass of product;

- a plurality of output heat transfer elements in thermal contact with the plurality of input heat transfer elements and to an ambient temperature environment to transfer thermal energy between the product mass and ambient temperature environment, the input and output heat transfer elements formed of an single extruded body of aluminum.

Claim 24.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mass of product is pre-cooked food, the at least two input heat transfer elements for extending into the pre-cooked food.

Claim 25.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements have a length, the length being not less than 4 inches.

Claim 26.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements have a length, the length being in the range of 4 to 10 inches.

Claim 27.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements each have a leading edge extending into the mass of product, the leading edge being linear.

Claim 28.(new) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements have a length, the length being not less than 4 inches.

Claim 29.(new) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements have a length, the length being in the range of 4 to 10 inches.

Claim 30.(new) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the at least two input heat transfer elements each have a leading edge extending into the mass of product, the leading edge being linear.

Claim 31.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least two input heat transfer elements each have a length, adjacent input heat transfer elements separated by a predetermined separation, the length of said input heat transfer elements being significantly longer than said separation between adjacent input heat transfer elements.

Claim 32.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least two input heat transfer elements are each fins having first and second major fin surface areas, the fin surface areas being generally parallel flat, planar surfaces for extending into the mass of product, the output heat transfer element being a fin having first and second major fin surface areas, the fin surface areas of the output heat transfer element being generally parallel each other and generally parallel the surface areas of the input heat transfer elements.

Claim 33.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a pan for holding the mass of product, the at least two input heat transfer elements for extending into the mass of product within the pan.

Claim 34.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 having no more than four input heat transfer elements.

Claim 35.(new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the input heat transfer

elements have a length and a thickness, the length being significantly greater than the thickness.